

SCREE

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MAY 1973

VOL. 16, No. 5

MAY MEETING...Thursday, May 17, 1973, 8:00 PM...Central Junior High Multipurpose Room...MINISLIDE SHOW - Slides by Trent Swanson...Business Meeting...Refreshments PROGRAM...Come see!

BOARD MEETING...June 4, 1973, 7:30 PM, Tom Meacham's, 1410 F Street.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 20 - O'MALLEY PEAK 5150 Nice one-day spring climb. One of the more impressive looking peaks in the Anchorage skyline. No special equipment needed except maybe gaiters to keep out snow if there are any patches left. Meet in Sears parking lot at 7:30 AM. LEADER: Brian Okonek Home Ph: 752-8146.

May 26 or 27 - MCA SNOW & ICE SCHOOL Limit 25 students--Contact Mike Richardson for details. Home Ph: 274-5044.

Sunday, June 3 - SUNDAY HIKE MADE TO ORDER FOR FAMILIES AND SLEEPYHEADS (start at 1:00 PM). Perhaps, will hike in Indian Valley - an excellent hike through huge spruce and cottenwood groves. Where hike will be is still indefinite. If you have any good ideas, call the LEADERS: Dave and Carol DeVoe at 333-5492 (Home Ph).

Sunday, June 10 - PIONEER PEAK 6398 About a 12-hour climb--but spectacular. LEADER to be announced at meeting.

Sat. & Sun., June 16-17 - RAFT AND HIKING TRAVERSE Take train from Portage to Whittier. Paddle about four miles up passage canal to Billings Creek. From there climb up to a 220 ft. pass and down the south fork of Carmen River to Carmen Lake. Then float down the Glacier River into the Twenty-nine River and out to the highway. If time and conditions permit, a climb of Peak 4094 will be made--most likely a first ascent. Trip depends on the amount of wind at Whittier. Contact LEADER: Charles Kibler, Home Ph: 277-8464 for further details.

Sign-up sheets for all the above trips will be at the next meeting. Anyone interested in seeing a special trip scheduled or leading one, leave a message for Larry Swanson at 279-3804. Leaders are badly needed to make the Club's summer trips possible.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF MCA MEETING OF APRIL 26, 1973

Tom Meacham, President, presided. Tom stated that a decision will be made in July on management in Chugach State Park. MCA's input was the only input Division of Parks has had aside from snowmachines; present plans call for intensive use including snowmachines near Anchorage; anyone concerned--write!

CONDENSED MINUTES (Cont.)

Tom Meacham attended a meeting of management of Chugach National Forest; he has sheets for comments for them on how they are managing. Tom reported that hearings on D2 lands indicate a lot of pressure for multiple use. He feels there are a lot of lands which ought to have other designations. Any MCA members interested write! Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, Attn: T. G. Bingham, 733 W. 4th Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501. Hearings again in Anchorage June 2nd or 3rd; written comment deadline is May 30, 1973.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Nienhueser
Acting Secretary

A N N O U N C E M E N T S !

BASIC BACKPACKING SCHOOL

To be organized by Bill Barnes, Sr., beginning the last week in May. Registration fee will be \$7.50 for individuals, \$10.00 for couples and \$5.00 for juniors (under 18). These fees will include membership in the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Present MCA members may also sign up for the course with a fee of \$2.50 per person or per couple.

The Backpacking School will begin with an introductory meeting and equipment display (free to all), followed by registration for the course. We plan one or two "theoretical" sessions, followed by approximately four weekend overnight trips led by MCA members. These trips will be part of the MCA calendar and are open to all MCA'ers who would like to share their know-how with the beginners.

Dates and details will hopefully be announced at the May MCA meeting. This school will be advertised in the Sports pages of the local papers, so watch for announcement of the exact time and place. For further information call Bill Barnes, Sr. (333-4609) or Tom Meacham (277-2129) and leave your name and phone number.

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

To be organized by Mike Richardson, John Pinamont and T.J. Bruce. Ice conditions on the Matanuska Glacier are ideal right now, and the MCA Mountaineering School will plan to use this natural classroom.

The course will be limited to 25 people, with a sign-up sheet to be available at the May MCA meeting. The limit of 25 is necessary to preserve a proper student-instructor ratio. As last year, attendance at all sessions will be required; each student must have been present at the previous session to progress to the next.

Registration fees will be \$10.00 for individuals and \$7.50 for juniors (age 16 to 18 only). These fees will include membership in the MCA. Current MCA members may take the course for \$5.00 each. The course will be comprehensive and intensive, including both classroom and practical instruction and numerous weekend "experience" climbs. The course will be from four to six weeks long (the exact schedule has not yet been set). Look for the sign-up sheet at the May MCA meeting or contact Mike Richardson (274-5044) for information.

ROCK-CLIMBING SCHOOL

The MCA Training Team is also planning an intermediate rock-climbing school later this summer, if there is enough interest.

PARTICIPATE IN BIK DAY JUNE 2**DETAILS AVAILABLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS.

P R E S I D E N T ' S P E N

The public showdown over 80 million acres of Federal "D-2" lands in Alaska has begun. These lands, equivalent in size to the State of New Mexico, were withdrawn by the Interior Secretary for study as possible national forests, national parks, wild rivers or wildlife refuges. After listening to public comments at hearings this month, the Secretary will make final recommendations to Congress in December for action on these proposals. After the hearings are finished, it will be too late for MCA'ers and other interested persons to have much effect on the decisions which will be made.

One difficulty in commenting now on the disposition of these lands is the fact that none of the Federal agencies (Forest Service, Park Service, BLM, Fish & Wildlife Service) have been allowed to present their specific proposals to the public yet. Thus, the public can't say, for instance, that they prefer the Park Service proposal for the Wrangell Mountains over the Forest Service proposal. Instead, public comment has been based on what is known about the general "philosophy" of public land management followed by each Federal agency.

These philosophies can be summed up in two phrases: multiple use and single use. The Forest Service and the BLM are generally known as "multiple use" agencies, because their basic laws require them to follow this philosophy. The Park Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service, by contrast, are required to manage their lands for primary purposes, such as wildlife habitat or national park use. The term "single use" is a misnomer, because no use which conflicts with the primary use is prohibited which results in the coordination of numerous compatible, non-destructive uses while preserving the primary reason for creating the national park or wildlife refuge in the first place.

"Multiple use" of such lands as national forests may also be an uncomplicated, coordinated planning of compatible uses. But just as often it is a contest between incompatible uses such as logging, mining, intensive development, and all kinds of recreation, each trying to exert enough muscle to get a piece of the "pie" for itself. The result may be mismanagement based on political pressure and the compelling need to provide something for everyone.

Certainly there is room for both "multiple use" and "single use" in our 80 million acres. Those lands primarily suitable for resource extraction should perhaps be placed under Forest Service management, to coordinate recreation uses compatible with such activities. But the lands which exemplify the best that wild Alaska has to offer, in wildlife, scenery, spectacular beauty, should become elements of our National Park System or the Wildlife Refuge System. Why should these management concepts have no application to Alaska? Other states have learned that National Parks provide one of the soundest and richest long-term economic investments. They don't run out in thirty years.

MCA'ers are urged to sign up to testify at the Land Use Planning Commission hearings in Anchorage on June 3 and 4, 1973. Sign up now, because it is your final chance to express your view on this subject. If you cannot attend, but wish to say something, mail your comments before June 30, 1973, to: Joint Land Use Planning Commission, c/o T. G. Bingham, 733 West 4th Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501.

- Tom Meacham -

MT. WILLIWAU 5445

Mary 10, 1973

Trent Swanson

March 10th we began a one-day ascent of Williwaw in wind and clouds shortly after sunrise. After an hour of skiing, there were several breaks in the clouds and by the time we reached the area between the Wedge and the Ramp, the sky was nearly clear. Paul Carnicelli, John Pinamont, Scott Mueller and I shed our packs and skied some powder while Mike Heinz took a break. After a few short runs, we decided to continue on up to the pass. Upon reaching it, we began a thousand-foot drop to

Ship Creek Valley, each carving his own way through light powder. Near the valley floor we plotted a course down the valley. We were cautious crossing gulleys because of avalanche danger, especially careful after a slab chased John down the mountain. Once on the ridge leading to the summit we waded through waist-deep snow. Half-way up the ridge we decided to turn back because of lack of time. The descent was fast and the trip up the valley hastened by shadows falling over us. The trip up to the pass was done in darkness, the last half with skis over the shoulder. The three-mile run in powder put us all in better spirits and we hardly cared when our skis grinded against underlying scree patches. Two and a half miles along the powerline seemed like a pleasant stroll and 1 1/2 miles walk down Upper Huffman, a Sunday walk when we finally reached the bottom and forgot about the top.

MT. WILLIWAW 5445

March 14-15, 1973

Trent Swanson

Scott Mueller, Jeff Bennett and I left Wednesday afternoon for a two-day climb. Jeff planned to climb the Wedge and the Ramp and be back in time for work at 3:00 on Thursday. Scott and I planned to try once more for Williwaw. Arriving at the base of the Wedge shortly before sunset, we began to dig a snow cave. Three hours later, wet and hungry, we sculped the finishing touches by candlelight. The next morning we found that due to an uneven floor we had slid several feet during the night and Scott was half-way out the entrance. After Scott and I put on our soggy pants and crawled out into a foot of fresh powder we didn't much feel like attacking Mt. Williwaw so the three of us walked up the Wedge and spent several hours making runs down powder that streamed up to our waists. Then heading back to the cave, we packed up and headed home after covering the entrance and marking it with a green flag for future visitors.

MT. WILLIWAW 5445

March 17, 1973

Trent Swanson

At 3:30 in the morning, I looked at my clock and thought "Here I go again." I met John Pinamont an hour later for another attempt of Williwaw. We were on the way up the powerline before 5:00 on a well-packed trail. Shortly after sunrise, we reached the pass by the Wedge and surveyed Ship Creek valley below. The sky was perfectly clear and the snow sparkled under full sunlight. John and I made a series of wide wedelns, forming figure-eights until we reached the valley. On our way down the valley we stayed low, out of reach of avalanches, making a straight line in untracked powder. A mile down the valley we headed up to the safety of the ridge top in knee-deep snow. In perhaps two hours we neared the summit and were forced to skirt the ridge because of several rock faces. Punching steps in icy snow, we slowly picked our way up ice and rock to the summit. We spent about 15 minutes basking in the sun and eating lunch before making our descent. When we reached our skis, we quickened the pace up the valley and then crisscrossed 1000 feet back up to the pass. At the top of the pass, we were greeted by a setting sun and a well-worn trail. Making fantastic speed down to the powerline we found ourselves skiing in moonlight. The full moon cast distinct shadows and made the snow sparkle as it had during daylight. Weary and a bit hungry, we reached John's Volvo around 8:00 after 15 hours of superb climbing and skiing.

B I T S & P I E C E S

First winter ascent of East Twin Peak 5873 was made on February 11, 1973, by Larry and Kathy Tedrick. After numerous winter attempts on this peak by various MCA peak-baggers, it was finally conquered by a couple who only learned later that they had the first successful winter ascent! Congratulations!

HELP! We need several more people to help with SCREE--many hands make light work. There is even a choice of tasks available--typing, duplicating or mailing. Please contact Kathy Causton at meetings or 274-1544 during the day.

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Please send material for the June SCREE to Kathy Causton, Box 2037, Anchorage, AK 99510 by Monday, June 4, 1973.

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FIRST CLASS

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